Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SSM-03 SCS-06 CA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /048 W

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R 201258Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9384 INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 13324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SHUM CASC EG

SUBJECT: INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS IN ASSIUT

REF: (A) CAIRO 13106, (B) 77 CAIRO 14314

- 1. AMCIT DAVID GATLIN, ASSEMBLY OF GOD MISSIONARY RESPONSIBLE FOR ORPHANAGE IN UPPER EGYPTIAN CITY OF ASSIUT, CAME TO EMBASSY MAY 19 WITH HIGHLY GARBLED ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT REPORTED REF A. ACCORDING GATLIN'S THIRD-HAND STORY, EIGHT MUSLIM STUDENTS INVADED APARTMENT OCCUPIED BY SIX CHRISTIANS AT UNIVERSITY, DESTROYING RELIGIOUS PAINTINGS, CROSSES AND BIBLICAL LITERATURE. AGAIN ACCORDING GATLIN, CHRISTIAN STUDENT PULLED KNIFE AND DISPATCHED THREE MUSLIMS, WHEREUPON MUSLIMS ANNIHILATED CHRISTIANS--LEAVING TOTAL OF NINE DEAD.
- 2. GATLIN WAS TOLD HIS ACCOUNT APPEARED TO BE HIGHLY EXAGGERATED. EMBOFF PASSED SUBSTANCE REF A AND COMMENTED THAT GATLIN'S INFORMANT SEEMED TO BE INFLATING ADMITTEDLY REGRETABLE INCIDENT. NEVERTHELESS, EMBOFF TOLD GATLIN WE WOULD RECHECK AND LET HIM KNOW WHETHER ANYTHING MORE SERIOUS HAD OCCURRED. EMBASSY HAS DONE SO AND IS TOLD ACCOUNT REF A CORRECT. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER INCIDENTS AND NO REPEAT NO SERIOUS INJURIES OCCURRED AT CONFIDENTIAL

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UNIVERSITY.

- 3. GATLIN SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO EMBASSY AFTERNOON MAY 19 OR MORNING MAY 20 TO LEARN WHETHER THERE ANY SUBSTANCE TO HIS ACCOUNT. HE HAS NOT DONE SO.
- 4. GATLIN'S CONCERN OVER SITUATION LARGELY RESULT OF

FACT HE INTENDS PLACE 11 YOUNG AMERICAN GIRLS IN ASSIUT THIS SUMMER. GIRLS WILL COME IN TWO GROUPS, WITH INITIAL 6 ARRIVING MAY 22. EMBOFF TOLD GATLIN THAT, SO FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE, THERE NO PARTICULAR DANGER TO GIRLS RESIDING IN ASSIUT, SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT ENGAGE IN PROSELYTIZING ACTIVITIES. GATLIN WAS ADVISED NOTIFY ASSIUTI AUTHORITIES OF GIRLS' PRESENCE. (EMBOFF DISCUSSED ADVISABILITY OF GIRLS' STAY IN ASSIUT WITH BISHOP SAMUEL, WHO CONFIRMED OUR EVALUATION. SAMUEL FELT THERE NO DANGER SO LONG AS GIRLS CONFINE THEIR ACTIVITIES TO ORPHANAGE.)

4. FYI: GATLIN APPEARED HIGHLY NERVOUS AND INSECURE. FOLLOWING LAST SUMMER'S INCIDENTS (REF B), HE MOVED FROM ASSIUT TO CAIRO SUBURB OF MAADI AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAS ATTEMPTED DIRECT ORPHANAGE ACTIVITIES FROM DISTANCE. GATLIN CLAIMS HE MOVED FROM ASSIUT ON "OFFICIAL ADVICE OF EMBASSY." THIS IS SIMPLY NOT REPEAT NOT TRUE. NO SUCH ADVISE WAS SOLICITED NOR OFFERED. GATLIN'S SUPERIOR IS EXPECTED IN CAIRO NEXT WEEK. WE WILL ATTEMPT DISCUSS SITUATION WITH HIM. MATTHEWS

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